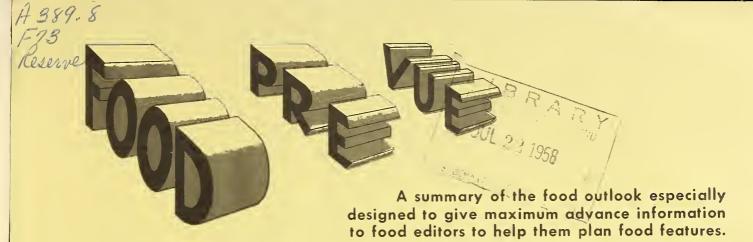
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Agricultural Marketing Service	F P -	19

MEAT: Total meat output may run about 3 to 4% under 1957, since cattle slaughter will probably continue below last year's rate. While summer and fall marketings of fed cattle will likely be above last summer, slaughter of cattle off grass, including cows, will be somewhat smaller.

Beef: Cattle and calf slaughter this year may be reduced enough to lift next January 1 inventories slightly above figures at the beginning of 1958. If this occurs, cyclical reduction, lasting only two years, will be shortest

on record.

Pork: This spring's pig crop ran 2% above year earlier, and fall farrowings are expected to increase 13%. Hog slaughter will likely rise above 1957 at times this summer, but fall slaughter expected to hold near last fall's level. Hog producers' plans for 13% greater fall farrowings indicate

sizeable increase in slaughter next spring.

POULTRY:

Chicken: Summer broiler supplies expected to be about a fifth greater than last year. Recent hatchings and egg settings--basis of broiler output through

about August -- point to about 12% increase over that period last year.

Turkey: Hatchings continue below 1957, indicating turkey crop perhaps 10% smaller

than last year's record 81 million birds.

Monthly egg production has been declining seasonally, but has been increasing compared with last year. Until June, production was below last year. But later on, production will exceed year earlier by gradually increasing percentages. By year's end a somewhat larger flock than on last January 1--and including more pullets--will probably lay at a slightly

higher rate than in 1957.

DAIRY PRODUCTS:

Eggs:

This year's milk production seems likely to at least equal last year's record of 126 billion pounds, and may exceed it.

VEGETABLES: Fresh:

Summer vegetable estimates point to about same acreage as last year. While spring forecasts were slightly higher than 1957, they ran about average. Moderate increases in production expected for early summer cabbage and onions and a sizeable increase for green peppers. These increases will be about offset by smaller output of early summer carrots,

celery, and cucumbers.

Canned: While total remaining supplies are moderately below last year, stocks of most items are still sizeable. Although smaller than 1957, carryover

stocks of most items at end of the 1957-58 season were ample to heavy.

Frozen: While supplies are materially below 1957, stocks of most frozen vegetables continue heavy.

Processing: Prospective acreage for 9 vegetables for commercial processing is about a tenth below last year and 11% under average.

Early summer potato crop estimated at 9 million, 574 thousand hundred-Potatoes: weight -- 6% above last year but 3% below average.

FRUITS: Fresh:

Here's latest roundup of this year's fruit crop prospects: Total peach crop estimated at 74-1/2 million bushels--nearly a fifth greater than last year. 18% above the 1947-56 average. Will be largest crop in 11 years. Excluding California clingstone crop--which goes mostly to canners-freestone output is 49-1/2 million bushels--24% above 1957 and more than a fifth above average. Pear crop--28 million, 338 thousand bushels--11% below last year, 5% under 10-year average. Sweet cherry crop--83 thousand, 580 tons--a tenth below last year, 9% below average. Total sour cherry output--90 thousand, 470 tons--38% below last year and smallest since 1945. California plums, 57 thousand tons, almost 30% below last year. Apricots--slightly above 118 thousand tons--38% below 1957, 44% under average and shortest crop since 1943. Total strawberry output--550 million pounds--while slightly under last year's, is about 30% above 1949-56 average.

Carryover stocks of canned deciduous fruits as 1958 canning season began, Canned: expected to be considerably smaller than large stocks year earlier. June 1 packers' stocks of 9 canned fruits ran 21% below last year. In Florida, June 14 packers' stocks of canned single-strength citrus juices were

around 36% below 1957.

The 1957-58 season frozen orange juice pack in Florida -- now completed --Frozen: totaled 57 million gallons. That's about 20% below last year's total when the season pack did not taper off until July. Frozen strawberry holdings June 1 tallied up to 122 million pounds--largest ever reported for that date and 13% above year earlier. Total frozen fruit stocks June 1--excluding juices -- were 14% higher than year ago.

June 1 estimates for California's 1958 prune crop are 127 thousand tons, Dried: dry basis, or 23% below near-average 1957 output of 165 thousand tons. While no estimate is yet available, prospect is for another small raisin pack. Prospective output of other California dried fruits is below average, so total dried fruit production will again be relatively small

this year.

Melons: Early summer watermelons -- forecast 15% above last year and nearly a fifth greater than average. Late spring output--16% above 1957 and 15% larger than average. Cantaloups: Early summer crop over 2-1/2 times greater than last year but only 27% above average.

Tree Nuts: California walnut production forecast at 71 thousand tons on June 1--15% above last year, 7% above 1947-56 average. California's almond crop this year expected to be sharply below near-average of 38 thousand tons last year. Oregon and Washington filbert crop prospects generally poor, with smaller output expected than last year's 12 thousand, 350 tons-but larger than 1956.

THE PLENTIFUL FOODS PROGRAM:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is supporting these industry campaigns: JULY PICNIC MONTH AUGUST SANDWICH MONTH OCTOBER CHEESE FESTIVAL